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CITY OF WELLS.

URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1955.

To: The Urban Sanitary Authority of the City of Wells.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the health of the Borough during 1955.

GENERAL

The Area of the City is 1301.150 acres.

The Registrar General's Estimate of the mid-year resident population of Wells in 1955 was 6,080 (6,030)

The number of inhabited houses in the City at the end of 1955 was 1,862.

The Rateable Value at the end of 1955 was £50,689 (£49,645)

The sum represented by the penny rate at the end of 1955 was estimated at £177. 0s. 0d. (£199. 0. 0d.)

BIRTH RATE.

The total live births in the City in 1955 was 82 (63) as follows:-

Legitimate	78	(61)	Males:	42	(40)	Females:	36	(21)
Illegitimate	4	(2)	Males:	4	(1)	Females:	-	(1)

Still births: There were 6 still births during 1955 as follows:-

Legitimate	4	Males:	2	Females:	2
Illegitimate	2	Males:	1	Females:	1

The birthrate per thousand of the population was 13.48 (10.5)

DEATH RATE.

There were 134 (120) deaths in the City from all causes during 1955, 62 (70) Males and 72 (50) Females.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes.

There were 16 (28) deaths from cancer 10 Males and 6 Females.

There were 32 (18) deaths from heart disease :- 13 Males and 19 Females.

The death rate per thousand of the population was 22.04 (20.0)

N.B. Figures in brackets are corresponding figures for 1954.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-

Legitimate 2 (Nil) Female 2

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:-

Legitimate 1 (Nil) Female 1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications were:-

Whooping Cough	43
Scarlet Fever	3
Measles	84
Erysipelis	2
Acute Polio-myelitis	2
Food poisoning	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the beginning of the year the number of cases on my register was 44 as follows:-

	Male.	Female.
Pulmonary	22	18
Non Pulmonary	1	3
	23	21

During the year 6 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, 4 males and 2 females. During the year 4 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 1 male and 3 females and 1 case of non pulmonary (female) were removed from the register for the following reasons.

Left the District	3
Cured	1
Died	1

So that at the end of the year the number of cases on the register was 45 as follows:-

	Male.	Female.
Pulmonary	25	17
Non Pulmonary	1	2
	26	19

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year there has been a wholesome and sufficient water supply available. Chlorination has been continued at the Spring head and Deep well.

The additional borehole sunk at the Athletic Ground has given an average yield of 5,000 gallons per hour and this additional supply has proved adequate for the present needs of the City for all purposes and for normal dry periods.

During dry periods or whenever there is a continuous use of the old borehole a slightly unpleasant taste is noticeable due to the presence of tar acids. Regular samples of water are taken, and the quantity of tar acids in the water remains below detection by the Laboratories which indicates that there is no increase in the contamination, and that the annual decrease in contamination is probably continuing. Water main extensions have been undertaken involving 220 yards of new main on Glastonbury Road and 200 yards of new main to the Wookey Hole Road Housing Site.

Results of samples of water taken for analysis were as follows:-

Raw Water.				After Treatment.			
Bacteriological.		Chemical.		Bacteriological.		Chemical.	
Sat.	unsat.	Sat.	unsat.	Sat.	unsat.	Sat.	unsat.
Nil	Nil	2	Nil	8	Nil	Nil	Nil

SWIMMING BATHS.

Samples of water are taken from the Swimming Baths during the summer season. The samples are taken both from the shallow or inlet end and from the deep or outlet end. The estimated average number of bathers during the season was 289 per day.

Water for the baths is taken from the mains supply, and passes through a continuous pressure sand filter and is chlorinated. The turnover of the water in the baths takes place every 4 hours.

Eight samples of water from the baths were taken throughout the season and were all satisfactory.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Consultant Engineers have completed the scheme for reconstruction of the Sewage Disposal Works and it has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval. A public enquiry is to be held by the Minister.

Sewer extensions to serve the Wookey Hole Road Housing Site have been completed, involving 100 yards of 9" sewer.

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REFUSE COLLECTION.

A weekly combined refuse and salavage collection is carried out in the City. Trade refuse is removed on payment.

Disposal of household and trade refuse is by controlled tipping on the sites adjacent to the Sewage Disposal Works.

HOUSING.

HOUSES ERECTED.

	Houses erected during the year.	Houses in course of erection.	Conversion to flats or dwellings.	Temporary
Local Authority	Nil	12 Flats	Nil	Nil
Private Enterprise	31	20	5	Nil
Total	31	32	5	Nil

Total number of post war houses completed.

(a) By Local Authority 263

(b) By Private Enterprise 86

TYPES OF NEW HOUSES.

Erected by.	Type.	No.	Av. rent excl. of Rates.	Subsidy per year.	Period of Subsidy.
Local Authority		NIL			
Private Enterprise					
Houses	3 Bedroom	14	-	-	-
Bungalows	3 Bedroom	1	-	-	-
	2 Bedroom	16	-	-	-

HOUSING PROGRAMME.

Local Authority. New houses proposed to be erected.

(a) 1956 30
(b) 1957 --

HOUSING APPLICATIONS.

The total number of applications for tenancy of a Council House at the end of the year was 150.

GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS.

No. of applications	received 1955	14
No. " "	approved	11
No. " "	rejected	2
No. " "	withdrawn	1

The average approved cost per dwelling was £390 and the average rental fixed was £80.0.0d. per annum.

OVERCROWDING.

The overcrowding situation in the City is not serious but there are isolated cases which receive attention as alternative accommodation becomes available.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

There are 1862 permanent dwellinghouses in the City, and in accordance with the Housing Act 1954, a survey of the district with a view to ascertaining the number of unfit houses which would require attention was taken. Approval has been given by the Minister to the Council's slum clearance programme:-

Part I. The total problem.

1)	Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act 1936.	148
2)	Period of years which the Council think is necessary for securing demolition of all the houses in (1)	10 years.

Part II Orders already made etc.

3)	Number of houses in 91) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the Local Authority.	5
4)	Number of houses already in clearance areas for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative.	NIL

HOUSING APPLICATIONS.

The total number of applications for housing at a (Council) House at the end of the year was 1,[illegible].

REASONS FOR ABSENCE OF APPLICATIONS.

No. of applications received 1955	1[illegible]
No. " " approved	1[illegible]
No. " " refused	2
No. " " withdrawn	3

The average applicant rent, per dwelling was £[illegible] and the average rental fixed was £[illegible] per annum.

OVERCROWDING.

The overcrowding situation in the City is not acute but there are isolated cases which require attention and alternative accommodation cannot always be available.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

There are 1[illegible] statutory demolitions in the City, and in accordance with the Housing Act 1957, a survey of the district with a view to ascertaining the number of unfit houses which would require attention was taken. A report has been given by the Minister to the Council's slum clearance programme.

Part I. The local problem.

1) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the Housing Consolidated Subsidies 1956, and eligible for action under Part II of Section 25 of the Housing Act 1957. 1[illegible]

2) Period of years within the Council's task is necessary for securing demolition of all the houses in (1). 10 years.

Part II. Clearance already made etc.

3) Number of houses in (1) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the Local Authority. 5

4) Number of houses already in clearance areas for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been made but not yet operative. 4[illegible]

SLUM CLEARANCE CONTD.

Part III. Action in first 5 years.

5)	Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the 5 years.	NIL
6)	Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within 5 years will be owned by the Local Authority or will have been included in a clearance order or compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister.	75
7)	Number of houses under 3,4,5 and 6 to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the 5 years under Section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, for temporary accommodation.	NIL
8)	Number of houses under 3,4,5 and 6 to be demolished in the 5 years,	75
9)	Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the 5 years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936.	NIL

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

(I)	1	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	284
		(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	347
	2	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 (a) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regs. 1925-1932.	63
		(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	131
		(c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary.	67

HOUSING INSPECTIONS CONTD.

	3	(a) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injuriousto health as to be unfit for human habitation.	49
	4	(a) Number of dwelling houses (exclud. those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	124
II	1	(a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit for human habitation in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their Officer .	58
		(b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action.	2
		(c) Number of houses demolished under existing clearance orders.	NIL
		(d) Number of houses closed as a result of an undertaking given by the owner, or following the issue of Closing Orders.	2

III Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936	NIL
Proceedings under Public Health Acts	NIL
Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act 1936	NIL

MILK SUPPLIES.

General.

(a)	Total number of Dairy Farms	7
(b)	Total number of Retailers	5
(c)	Number of Producer/Retailers inc.in (b)	1
(d)	Number of licensed pasteurisation plants	1
(e)	Number of heat-treatment plants not included in (d)	Nil
(f)	Number of Supplementary Licences issued to dealers or distributors	4

MILK SAMPLING.

Designation	Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	13	12	1
Accredited	-	-	-
Pasteurised	13	11	2
Sterilised	-	-	-
Undesignated	-	-	-
Totals	26	23	3

Biological Sampling.

Number taken 1. Negative Results 1.

ICE CREAM.

No. of Premises Registered.

(a)	For manufacture only	Nil
(b)	For retail only	28
(c)	For manufacture and retail	4

Sampling.

The total number of samples of Ice Cream taken during the year was 37. The number of samples taken has decreased annually due to the high bacteriological standard of the product. The results were as follows:-

	Hot Mix.	Cold Mix.
Grade I	20	6
Grade II	7	1
Grade III	3	Nil
Grade IV	Nil	Nil
Totals	30	7

MEAT SUPERVISION.

Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses in District 2
Number of Licensed Knackers Yards in District NIL

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned during the year:-

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Sheep and Lambs.
Number Killed	27	51
Number Inspected	27	51
All diseases except Tuberculosis.		
(a) Carcases condemned	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	4	Nil
Tuberculosis only.		
(a) Carcases condemned	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	2	Nil
Weight of Meat condemned.		
(a) Tuberculosis	14 lbs.	Nil
(b) Other Diseases	24 lbs.	Nil

No Cows, calves or pigs were killed in the City during 1955.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Number of Inspected Slaughters done in District: 2
Number of Licensed Slaughters Visited in District: 0,[illegible]

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and condemned during the year:-

	Cattle including Short-horn. Year.	Cattle including Short-horn. Lunar.
Number Killed	27	51
Number Inspected	27	51
All diseases except Tuberculosis.		
(a) Carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	4	Nil
Tuberculosis only.		
(a) Carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	2	Nil
Nodule or Meat condemned.		
(a) Entirelions	1½ lbs.	Nil
(b) Other Diseases	24 lbs.	Nil

No Cows, calves or pigs were killed in the City during 1925.

RODENT CONTROL.

Sewer Maintenance Treatment.

Two sewer maintenance treatments were again repeated during the year. This work has received considerable success during the last 10 years. In 1946 prebait takes were recorded in 57 per cent of the manholes in the sewer system. During 1955 this fell to 2.2 per cent.

There are 91 manholes on the sewer system of the City.

Surface Infestations.

During the year 37 complaints of surface infestation were received, and 36 separate treatments were carried out by the rodent operative. Warfarin has come to be accepted as the basic rat poison and it was used in all the treatments.

Details are given below in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses.	Others including Business Premises.	Agric.	Total
Number of Properties in Area.	12	1862	461	26	2361
Number of Properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	3	19	14	1	37
(b) Survey	9	31	11	19	70
Infested Properties					
(a) Rats Major	5	-	1		6
(a) Rats Minor	-	14	7	5	26
(b) Mice Major	-	-	-		-
(b) Mice Minor	-	1	3		4
Notices served under the Act		NIL			

RIVER POLLUTION.

Number of cases dealt with during the year NIL

Alan W. Woolley, M.B. Ch.B.
Medical Officer of Health.

H. C. Birch. M.R.San.I.,M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Sewer Maintenance Treatment.

The sewer maintenance [illegible] water main repairs during the year. This work has involved considerable excavation during the last 10 years. In 1933 manhole covers were repaired in 97 per cent of the manholes in the sewer system. During 1933 this fell to 2.2 per cent.

There are 91 manholes on the sewer system of the city.

Surface Inspection.

During the year 37 complaints of surface infestation were received, and 36 separate treatments were carried out by the rodent operative. Rat[illegible] are seen to be occupied by the [illegible] rat poison and it was used in all the treatments.

Details are given below in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses.	Others Premises.	Lights.	Total
Number of Properties in Area.	12	1,672	621	19	2321
Number of Properties Inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	3	20	34	1	57
(b) Survey	9	31	11	19	70
Infested Properties					
(a) Rats	2	1			3
(b) Mice		1			1
Notices served under Sec. 4		NIL			

Mice Infestation.

Number of premises found with infestation - one only.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]